



# *Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission*

## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 14, 2002

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### **ASMFC Releases Draft Red Drum Amendment 2 for Public Comment *VA, NC, SC & GA to Hold Hearings Throughout January and Early February***

Washington, DC – The Atlantic coastal states of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia have scheduled the dates and times of their public meetings in order to gather public comment and input on the recently released Draft Amendment 2 to the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Red Drum. Following are the details of those meetings.

**January 9, 2002; 6:00 PM**

Georgia Division of Coastal Resources  
City Hall Main Conference Room  
115 East M.L. King, Jr. Boulevard  
Hinesville, Georgia  
Contact: Susan Shipman at (912) 264-7218

**January 11, 2002; 6:00 PM**

Georgia Division of Coastal Resources  
University of Georgia Marine Extension Service  
715 Bay Street  
Brunswick, Georgia  
Contact: Susan Shipman at (912) 264-7218

**January 31, 2002; 7:00 PM**

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources  
Marine Resource Center  
217 Fort Johnson Road  
Charleston, South Carolina  
Contact: David Cupka at (843) 762-5010

**February 5, 2002; 7:00 PM**

North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries  
North Carolina State University  
Center for Marine Science and Technology Building  
303 College Circle  
Morehead City, North Carolina  
Contact: Dr. Louis Daniel at (252) 726-7021

**January 10, 2002; 6:00 PM**

Georgia Division of Coastal Resources  
Armstrong Atlantic State University  
University Hall 156  
Savannah, Georgia  
Contact: Susan Shipman at (912) 264-7218

**January 28, 2002; 7:00 PM**

Virginia Marine Resources Commission  
2600 Washington Avenue, Fourth Floor  
Newport News, Virginia  
Contact: Jack Travelstead at (757) 247-2247

**February 4, 2002; 7:00 PM**

North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries  
North Carolina Aquarium  
Airport Road  
Manteo, North Carolina  
Contact: Dr. Louis Daniel at (252) 726-7021

**February 7, 2002; 7:00 PM**

North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries  
North Carolina Dept. Environment & Natural Resources  
127 Cardinal Drive Extension (off of Highway 17)  
Wilmington, North Carolina  
Contact: Dr. Louis Daniel at (252) 726-7021

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The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and anadromous species.

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Currently, the states manage red drum under Amendment 1. While the management measures implemented under the plan led to an increase in the escapement rates of juvenile red drum, the overall population remains overfished in both the northern and southern regions. The management program established by Amendment 1 was intended to be an intermediate step in a phased in approach to recovering the red drum population. Since its adoption in 1994, Atlantic coastal states from Florida through New Jersey have implemented measures to modify harvest regulations and/or commercial quotas to increase escapement of subadult red drum. Under these regulations, Amendment 1's interim management goal appears to have been met and exceeded to some degree in each region. It was anticipated that additional harvest restrictions would be required in some areas to meet the ultimate goal of the original FMP.

Amendment 2 proposes to address the next steps for rebuilding the red drum population, as well as updating the FMP to meet the standards for Commission FMPs under the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA 1993). Proposed measures include more restrictive bag and size limits for recreational and for-hire fishermen, a coastwide 27-inch total length (TL) or less maximum size limit and a payback provision for any commercial fisheries that exceed their current landings cap. In addition to these measures within the management unit, Amendment 2 proposes that states outside the management unit (New York through Maine) implement complementary measures to protect the red drum resource. Specifically, those states are asked to implement a provision to prohibit the harvest, possession and sale of red drum greater than 27 inches TL.

Copies of the Draft Amendment can be obtained by contacting Vanessa Jones, Administrative Assistant, at (202) 289-6400 or <[vjones@asmfc.org](mailto:vjones@asmfc.org)>, or via the Commission's website at [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org). Written public comment will be accepted until February 8, 2002 and should be forwarded to Dr. Joseph Desfosse, FMP Coordinator, 1444 Eye Street, NW, Sixth Floor, Washington, DC 20005; (202) 289-6051 (fax) or <[jdesfosse@asmfc.org](mailto:jdesfosse@asmfc.org)>.

NOTE TO PRESS: If you would like to receive the Commission's press releases via email, please contact Tina Berger, Public Affairs & Resource Specialist, at [tberger@asmfc.org](mailto:tberger@asmfc.org) or fax to (202) 289-6051.